

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01195 061531Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----126054 062135Z /46

R 061510Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6993
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1195

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: APER, MARR, XF
SUBJ: UN MILITARY OBSERVERS IN LEBANON

REF: USUN 759

1. DURING CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER BOURRSO MARCH 3 I CALLED TO HIS ATTENTION DETERIORATING SECURITY SITUATION FOR UNMO'S IN SOUTH LEBANON AND GAVE HIM COPY OF UN REPORT ON SUBJECT TRANSMITTED IN JERUSALEM'S 592. BOUTROS SAID HE WAS INFORMED OF SITUATION AND REGRETTED IT VERY MUCH BUT DID NOT KNOW WHAT HE COULD DO ABOUT IT.

2. URQUHART WAS ABSOLUTELY RIGHT IN POINTING OUT THAT LEBANESE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO PROVIDE MILITARY PROTECTION IN THAT AREA IS ZERO. AN EFFORT SHOULD NEVERTHELESS BE MADE TO GET LOCAL CHRISTIAN COMMANDERS TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE HOLDUPS AND DO SOMETHING TO PREVENT THEM. IT IS JUST POSSIBLE THAT THE LEBANESE MILIARY HERE CAN HAVE SOME
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INFLUENCE ON THEM IN THIS REGARD AND WE PLAN TO FOLLOW UP ON THAT.

3. BELIEVE AMBASSADOR LEWIS TOOK JUST THE RIGHT LINE WITH WEIZMAN AS REPORTED IN TEL AVIV 2942. SEEMS TO US THAT ISRAELIS, IN THEORY AT LEAST, HAVE MORE CONTROL THAN ANYONE ELSE OVER WHAT IS GOING ON IN CHRISTIAN

ENCLAVES.

4. ALSO CONCUR FULLY WITH AMBASSADOR LEWIS THAT SOME SIGN
OF LIFE OUT OF SIILASVUO (AND UN HEADQUARTERS) WOULD BE
USEFUL. IN PARTICULAR, IF SIILASVUO AND URQUHART
WOULD COME TO LEBANON AND TAKE FIRST HAND LOOK AT SITUATION
AND MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO LEBANESE AND ISRAELI AUTHORITIES,
IT MIGHT HAVE SOME EFFECT.

PARKER

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NNN

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